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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

TON, MINH TOAN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/973,932

Applicant(s)

YOUN ET AL. *me*

Examiner

Toan Ton

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

Art Unit: 2871

***Election/Restriction***

1. An election without traverse of claims 1-4 is acknowledged.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, "***substantially*** absent" is unclear and indefinite.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action :

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kashimoto (US 5844645).

Kashimoto discloses and shows (Figure 4) a liquid crystal display panel comprising : a liquid crystal layer 50 sandwiched between a pair of substrates 21, 11; an active region includes pixel electrodes 13 and TFT components such as source lines 12 disposed on the substrate 11; a

Art Unit: 2871

sealing region includes sealing element 40 formed outside the active region; blocking elements 22 formed on the substrate 21 and absent in the sealing region.

5. Claims 1, 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Kashimoto (US 5844645).

Kashimoto discloses and shows (Figure 4) a liquid crystal display panel comprising : a liquid crystal layer 50 sandwiched between a pair of substrates 21, 11; an active region includes pixel electrodes 13 and TFT components such as source lines 12 disposed on the substrate 11; a sealing region includes sealing element 40 formed outside the active region; a light shielding layer 26 formed on the substrate 21 and absent in the sealing region.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashimoto (US 5844645) as applied to claims 1, 3-4 above.

Art Unit: 2871

UV-type hardening material used for the sealing element is common and known in the liquid crystal display art.

8. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kashimoto (US 5844645) as applied to claims 1, 3 above.

See detailed explanations in paragraph number 7 above.

9. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukutani et al (US 5132830).

Fukutani discloses and shows (Figures 3, 6) a liquid crystal display panel comprising all claimed elements except for an active region comprising thin film transistors.

Fukutani discloses and shows (Figure 6) blocking layers BL formed on the upper substrate (Applicant's second substrate).

The use of thin film transistors (TFTs) in a liquid crystal display device is known for achieving advantages such as cross-talk reduction. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ TFTs for achieving advantages such as cross-talk reduction.

Per claim 2, see detailed explanations in paragraph number 7 above.

Art Unit: 2871

***Conclusion***

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

***Contact Information***

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. TON whose telephone number is (703) 305-3489. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

May 14, 2002

  
**TOANTON**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**